

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CIEP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0339

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 0248

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, DA

SUBJECT: FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT

REF: COPENHAGEN 0192

1. PRIMIN POUL HARTLING'S MINORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WAS
OVERTURNED TONIGHT IN THE FIRST TEST OF STRENGTH IN THE
NEWLY-CONVENED FOLKETING (PARLIAMENT) SESSION. THE VOTE
CAME LATE THIS EVENING ON A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC (SDP)

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NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AFTER AN ALL-DAY DEBATE ON THE

GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED ECONOMIC POLICY.

2. THE SDP MOTION, URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TO THE FORMATION OF A "BROAD, MAJORITY GOVERNMENT ACROSS THE MIDDLE" OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, WAS ADOPTED 86 TO 85. VOTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT WERE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS - 51 (TWO WERE ABSENT), RADICALS - 13, SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY - 9, COMMUNISTS - 7, LEFT SOCIALISTS - 4, AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE FAEROES AND ONE FROM GREENLAND.

3. HARTLING'S FATE WAS SEALED WHEN ONE CONSERVATIVE AND THE FOUR CENTER DEMOCRATS WITHHELD THEIR VOTES, THOUGH THE REMAINING CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS VOTED FOR HARTLING. (COMMENT: THE WOUNDS LEFT IN THESE TWO FORMER ALLIED PARTIES BY THE LIBERAL'S "CANNIBALISTIC" ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAD NOT YET BEEN HEALED.)

4. HARTLING ANNOUNCED AFTER THE VOTE THAT HE WILL DELIVER HIS GOVERNMENT'S RESIGNATION TO THE QUEEN TOMORROW. PARLIAMENT HAS NOT BEEN DISSOLVED; IT WILL MERELY RECESS UNTIL THE NEW ROUND OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION TALKS PRODUCES A SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT.

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